BOOKS AND AUTHORS—REVIEWS AND COMMENT

LITERARY CRITICISM

Mr. Dougherty's History of the Constitution of New York-Suggestions to the Current Convention at Albany.

THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY J. Hampdon Doughers See Belliton. Sto. pp. 408 New York. The New Park To New York The New Publishing Company.

The interest and value of Mr. Dougherty's work are enhanced by the fact that the constitution of New York is just now undergoing revision at the hands of a Constitutional Convention the seventh body of that sort to meet since New York became a self-governing commonwealth. The substance of this book apeared several years ago as Volume II of "The Legal and Judicial History of New York," edited by Justice Alden Chester, of the State Su-preme Court for the Third Judicial District. It has now been revised and enlarged by the author, and contains additional chapters dealing directly with certain of the problems to be

solved by this year's convention.

A reading of Mr. Dougherty's book must greatly hearten those who have faith in the steady, reasoned march of democracy. It is almost impossible for New Yorkers of this generation

composed of freeholders, and elected by freeholders alone. No freeholder

by freeholders alone. No freeholder could be an elector unless the value of his holding equalled £100 sterling above all debts charged against it.

The electorate for the Assembly consisted of freeholders with an interest of £20 and lessees paying annual rentals exceeding 40 shillings. Freemen in Albany and New York City were also

exceeding 40 shillings. Freemen in Al-bany and New York City were also entitled to vote for Assemblymen. The Governor was chosen by the electorate, which chose the Senate. Practically all the other public offices in the state were appointive, and the power of appointment and removal was vested in a Council of Appointment vested in a Council of Appointment consisting of the Governor and four Was Business Ambassador Senators (the latter elected by the Assembly), a majority vote being required to approve a nomination or to order a removal. At first the Governor was supposed to make all nominations,

be the cancel when the state was compelled to at its authority of the property of the control was also well as the state was compelled to at its authority of the state was compelled to at its authority of the state was compelled to at its authority of the state was compelled to at its authority of the state was compelled to at its authority of the state was compelled to at its authority of the state was compelled to at its authority of the state was compelled to at its authority of the state of

AND BOOK NEWS

It will be the business of the

forthcoming convention to decide whether the ambiguities of the con-

stitution shall be continued. Is the power of impeachment, if it is to

remain in the Assembly, to be ca-

pable of exercise by it at any time'

Shall any judge or Senator, how-ever clear his disqualifications to

the moral sense of mankind, be permitted to sit in judgment, and

must the plea prevail that his as

sociates have no power to remove him from the court? Should a pub-

he officer be impeached for acts committed when he was not an of-

ficer of the state? Does it rest with the court for the trial of an impeachment to say what are im-peachable acts?

Common Sense About a Famous Love Affair-The Poet's Selfishness and His Victim's Sacrifices -Her Fifteen Thousand Love Letters.

submission to his tyranny.

VICTOR HUGO AND

gether mated to his own satisfaction, and possessed of a theoretic notion that the best thing to redeem a courtesan is an unselfish and devoted love tion is that it is something basic, some-of letters finding such a lady in the tion is that it is something basic, something subject to change only under
rare and exceptional circumstances.
But any study of a series of atate
constitutions shows what capacity for
change is inherent in such instruments.
If they resist change too long they
perish suddenly off the face of the
carth, as did the undemocratic constitution of 1777. Constitutions are made
for men—not men for constitutions.
That is the basic conclusion of Mr.
Dougherty's studies, for he says: must greatly hearten those who have faith in the steady, reasoned mate of democracy. It is almost impossible for New Yorkers of this generation. The convention will do well to realize how monstrously undemocratic was the system of government for realize how monstrously undemocratic was the system of government for realize how monstrously undemocratic was the system of government for the first of the first

passed through a liaison with the sculptor Pradier. She was twenty-six, with

Louis Guimbaud has edited the love-letters written by Juliette Drouet to Victor Hugo during the many years of Victor Hugo during the many years of Borgia." Hugo was thirty, and the their relation, and added thereto a author of "Hernani" and "Notre Dame sketch of her life, the letters and the de Paris." He took her away from the biography being translated into Eng- stage, as we have seen, paid her debts lish by Lady Theodosia Davidson. The work leads a reviewer in "The London Outlook" to these reflections upon the incredible selfishness of the poet and the woman's hardly less conceivable submission to his tyranny. Conceive a man of letters, not alto-ther mated to his own satisfaction, heart." At the same time Hugo, remembering his theory, encouraged in her "an inclination for prayer and tearful repentance." There is a certain pathos in reading how by degrees she succeeded in collecting nearly all the poet's clothes into her room, as a guarantee of his occasional presence, and how she

fitted him up a work-table "close to or bed."

All this was good enough to go on but the wonderful for a few years, but the wonderful thing is that it went on for fifty. For fifty years this good soul went on writinfty years this good soul went on writing letters that were never dispatched in the sublime belief that if her great man did not come this week to read them he would come the week after. In 1843 she says: "I have been working all the morning, my beloved, or rather scribbling on paper—only to please you, for I doubt whether my labor will be of any use to you; still. I am trying hard, and if I cannot do better, I am doing my best." In 1852 she accompanied Hugo, his wife and sons into exile in the Channel Islands; in 1870

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It a Famous Love Affair—The and His Victim's Sacrifices
Thousand Love Letters.

(Mme. Hugo having died in the meantime) she was the participator in the somewhat theatrical glories of his return to Paris. During her last years we gather that she played the part of faithful nurse when she ought rather to have been nursed. She predeceased her master by two years, dying in 1883 of an internal cancer.

We think the following passages from M. Guimbaud's commentary, which by no means intends to be unfavorable to Hugo, will be found interesting:

She took her career as an artist very seriously, and it was a great disappointment to her that her lover failed to desire her as an interpreter of his parts. He certainly did not. He allowed his jealousy full play, and wished to keep Juliette for himself alone. His tactics seem to have been to dangle promises ever before her, but to give her nothing; to procure dramatic engagements for her, and prevent her from fulfilling them.

Again, of a much later period, after he return to Paris:

he return to Paris:

In the period between 1874 and 1878 it must be conceded that Victor Hugo did his best to secure to his friend a greater degree of mental tranquillity than she had ever enjoyed before. He was careful to conceal his infidelities from her, and often succeeded in averting scenes and reproaches; or, if denial scemed impossible, he tried to palliate his fault and gain indulgence by addressing to her one dulgence by addressing to her one of those poetical odes in which he

rived such pride and joy. And, finally:

Every afternoon the old poet paid her a visit. He disliked any men-tion of death, and could not bear the sight of suffering.

Docile as ever, the sick woman en-deavored to smile when he entered her room. She listened submisdeavored to smile when he entered her room. She listened submissively to the arguments by which he sought to persuade her that she did not really suffer, that there is no such thing as suffering. Up till May 11, 1883, the very day of her death, there remained thus about one hour of the day during which she still had to play her part, restrain her moans and look cheeful. That is a long way—fifty years—from

strain her moans and look cheetul.

That is a long way—fifty years—from the redemption of a Magdalen, and we think that Juliette Drouet, who began as an experiment, must have ended as a habit. In the early part of the book we read of her "painful remorse for a past which the lover liked to hear his mistress lavail [the italies are ours]. and which she despaired of ever re-deeming." It is as easy to be certain from this book that she redeemed her past as it is difficult to be certain that her lover at any time thought of her as anything very different from a heroine in a Dumas drama.

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the women's apparel, yet.

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Iceland

inhabited by a rugged, primitive people who lived face to face with Nature in her most relentless mo Their passions burned with a fierce flame and their ways were violent and uncompromising—except Cor-mac, who was a poet very unlike his fellows. He loved Stangerd, a glori-ous Iceland girl, with a strange, wistful, romantic love. Their story is told in

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of Whose Efforts the President Said "Rats."

order a removal.

was supposed to make all nominations, but after 1801 any member could subbut after 1801 any member could submit names to the council.

A power of veto on legislation was lodged in a Council of Revision, consisting of the Governor, the Chancellor and the judges of the Supreme Court, or any two of the latter. A two-thirds or any two of the latter. A two-thirds vote in each branch was necessary to vote in each branch was necessary to override a veto by the council.

Override a veto by the council.

Mrs. Ferguson was accommodated.

Mrs. Ferguson was accommodated.

Mrs. Ferguson brase her suit gainst proventile nusband on his alleged. vote in each branch was necessary to override a veto by the council.

From 1777 to 1821, while this system stood, politics here was largely a struggie to control the Council of Appointment, and through it the patronage, which grew very rapidly in proportion to the voting population. In 1820, with a census population of 1,372,812, the consult vote for Governor was 93,434. But the number of offices in the gift of the council was 14,950. If each appointed could control two others voters, the officeholders would virtually constitute a voting plurality.

The War of 1812 broke down this vicious system, since the state was

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